

I. Amendments

In the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein each respective threshold is equal to a common threshold value.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein at least one of the respective communication links comprises:
 - a. a receiver; and
 - b. an antenna coupled to the receiver, wherein the antenna and the receiver cooperate in accordance with the respective antenna pattern.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein at least one of the respective communication links comprises:
 - a. a transmitter; and
 - b. an antenna coupled to the transmitter, wherein the antenna and the transmitter cooperate in accordance with the respective antenna pattern.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein each selected antenna pattern has a different polarization.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein each selected antenna pattern has a different direction of maximum effectiveness as an antenna.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein at least one logical combination operates in accordance with a logical OR of at least two of the plurality of results.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein at least one logical combination operates in accordance with a logical AND of at least two of the plurality of results.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for determining whether a radio frequency identification device is detected, the method comprising:

selecting a plurality of different antenna patterns, each antenna pattern configured to receive a signal corresponding to an independent variable;

determining a plurality of results each responsive to whether a respective communication link provides a respective signal having a respective amplitude exceeding a respective threshold, each communication link operative in accordance with at least one of the selected antenna patterns;

selecting, from a plurality of predetermined logical combinations a logical combination; and

determining whether the radio frequency identification device is detected in accordance with the logical combination and in accordance with the plurality of results; wherein R1, R2, R3, and R4 represent four results of the plurality of results, and at least one logical combination operates in accordance with the logical expression: (R1 OR R2) AND (R3 OR R4).

10. (Previously Presented) A method for determining whether a radio frequency identification device is detected, the method comprising:

selecting a plurality of different antenna patterns, each antenna pattern configured to receive a signal corresponding to an independent variable;

determining a plurality of results each responsive to whether a respective communication link provides a respective signal having a respective amplitude exceeding a respective threshold, each communication link operative in accordance with at least one of the selected antenna patterns;

selecting, from a plurality of predetermined logical combinations a logical combination; and

determining whether the radio frequency identification device is detected in accordance with the logical combination and in accordance with the plurality of results;

wherein R1, R2, R3, and R4 represent four results of the plurality of results, and at least one logical combination operates in accordance with the logical expression: (R1 AND R2) OR (R3 AND R4).

11. (Previously Presented) A method for determining whether a radio frequency identification device is detected, the method comprising:

selecting a plurality of different antenna patterns, each antenna pattern configured to receive a signal corresponding to an independent variable;

determining a plurality of results each responsive to whether a respective communication link provides a respective signal having a respective amplitude exceeding a respective threshold, each communication link operative in accordance with at least one of the selected antenna patterns;

selecting, from a plurality of predetermined logical combinations a logical combination; and

determining whether the radio frequency identification device is detected in accordance with the logical combination and in accordance with the plurality of results; wherein at least one logical combination operates in accordance with whether a sum of the plurality of results exceeds a predetermined quantity.

12. (Currently Amended) A memory comprising indicia of instructions for performing the method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 by a data processing circuit.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) An object identification system comprising:

means for selecting a plurality of different antenna patterns, each antenna pattern configured to receive a signal corresponding to an independent variable;

means for determining a plurality of results each responsive to whether a respective communication link provides a respective signal having a respective amplitude exceeding a respective threshold, each communication link operative in accordance with at least one of the selected antenna patterns;

means for selecting, from a plurality of predetermined logical combinations, a logical combination; and

means for determining whether the radio frequency identification device is detected in accordance with the logical combination and in accordance with the plurality of results;

wherein R1, R2, R3, and R4 represent four results of the plurality of results, and at least one logical combination operates in accordance with the logical expression: (R1 OR R2) AND (R3 OR R4).

15. (Previously Presented) An object identification system comprising:

means for selecting a plurality of different antenna patterns, each antenna pattern configured to receive a signal corresponding to an independent variable;

means for determining a plurality of results each responsive to whether a respective communication link provides a respective signal having a respective amplitude exceeding a respective threshold, each communication link operative in accordance with at least one of the selected antenna patterns;

means for selecting, from a plurality of predetermined logical combinations, a logical combination; and

means for determining whether the radio frequency identification device is detected in accordance with the logical combination and in accordance with the plurality of results;

wherein R1, R2, R3, and R4 represent four results of the plurality of results, and at least one logical combination operates in accordance with the logical expression: (R1 AND R2) OR (R3 AND R4).

16. – 30. (Canceled).